

FWP Commission Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: March 10, 2011

Agenda Item: Introduction to the 2012 Fishing Regulation Setting Process

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Informational

Time for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

FWP Fisheries Bureau has begun the fishing regulation setting process for 2012. Even though regulation changes are made every year, every fourth year (2012 being one of them), FWP embarks on a thorough review of its fishing regulations. There are two primary additional activities that occur during these fourth-year efforts:

- 1) Staff is directed to propose ways to simplify and standardize regulations, within individual waterbodies, regions or statewide; and
- 2) The public is solicited for ideas on regulation changes.

Public Involvement Process & Results

A brochure has been developed which asks the public to provide us with their ideas on regulation changes they would like to see. The brochure also lists a number of ideas which were developed by staff and asks for input on those. This brochure has been sent to all license agents for distribution to anglers buying their 2011 fishing licenses. In addition, the brochure is posted on our website and comments can be posted there electronically. Comments on the brochure will be taken through March. After that time, Helena staff will collate and compile the public responses, and send back out to Regional Fisheries Managers. The Managers will use this information to decide on ways to use the responses to fashion appropriate regulation changes. Further engagement with the public will occur using techniques and approaches of the Managers' choosing. This might include open houses, presentations to angler groups, discussion at Regional Citizens Advisory Committees, or surveys. Further refinement of these responses will then be used to propose regulation changes for 2012, and will be presented to the FWP Commission on August 11, 2011. Once approved by the Commission, a formal 30-day public comment period will follow, and the FWP Commission will consider final adoption of the regulation changes on October 13.